

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 15837 170048Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /018 W
----- 036253 /63
P 170010Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9240

UNCLAS MEXICO 15837

PASS ALSO AID FOR SER/INC AND DEA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: SDC/MOPSS CONTRACT

REF: (A) MEXICO 15814; (B) MEXICO 15815

1. AVIATION ADVISORY STAFF HAS INVESTIGATED COMPLAINTS
RAISED BY SPECTRAL DATA CORPORATION (SDC) IN ITS RECENT TELEX
TO EMBASSY. STATUS REPORT FOLLOWS.

2. AIRCRAFT XC-GOZ; AIRCRAFT USED BY SDC WAS GROUNDED D
DECEMBER NINE BECAUSE OF FAILED OIL SEAL. SEAL WAS AMONG
PARTS ORIGINALLY ORDERED BY BELL FROM ROCKWELL ON SEPTEMBER
THIRTEEN. APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO, SDC MECHANIC INFORMED
BELL THAT PRESENT SEAL WAS FAILING AND THAT REPLACEMENT WAS
NEEDED SOONEST. BELL TELEPHONED ROCKWELL REQUESTING PRIORITY
ATTENTION, WAS INFORMED SEAL EN ROUTE. WHEN SEAL NOT
RECEIVED BELL AGAIN TELEPHONED ROCKWELL, REQUESTED SECOND
SHIPMENT, AND ALSO ASKED FOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS OF
PARTS WHICH MIGHT BE SUBSTITUTED. ON RECEIPT OF INTER-
CHANGEABILITY INFORMATION, PART WAS PROCURED LOCALLY
AND IS NOW AVAILABLE. (WE HAVE NO RECORD THAT EITHER
ROCKWELL SHIPMENT RECEIVED.)

3. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AIRCRAFT GROUNDING, SDC MECHANIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 15837 170048Z

BEGAN 100-HOUR INSPECTION AND DISCOVERED ONE STARTER
INOPERATIVE. SDC MECHANIC REQUESTED STARTER DECEMBER
FIFTEEN; IT WAS HAND-CARRIED TO CULIACAN DECEMBER SIX-
TEEN.

4. WE KNOW OF ONLY ONE OTHER GROUNDING OF XC-GOZ FOR

PARTS WHICH OCCURRED NOVEMBER THREE THROUGH SEVEN. ON NOVEMBER THREE SDC MECHANIC ATTEMPTED TO INSTALL REPLACEMENT CYLINDER AND PISTON IN ENGINE, AND NOTED THAT NEW PISTON WAS NOT OF HIGH-COMPRESION TYPE REQUIRED. HE THEN REQUESTED PROMPT PROCUREMENT OF CORRECT TYPE OF BELL IN MEXICO CITY. PART WAS IMMEDIATELY PROCURED IN THE UNITED STATES AND AIRLIFTED TO CULUSCAN BY DEA. PLANE WAS AIRWORTHY AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER SEVEN. (INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT ORIGINAL LIST OF REQUIRED PARTS PREPARED BY SDC LISTED INCORRECT CYLINDER ASSEMBLY AS SDC MECHANIC DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT PRIOR MODIFICATION HAD CONVERTED ENGINES TO SUPERCHARGED CONFIGURATION.)

5. MISSING PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: SDC PROJECT LEADER GROTEWALD INFORMED EMBASSY BY PHONE DECEMBER SIXTEEN THAT THERE IS NOTHING MISSING THAT HAS ANY SERIOUS EFFECT ON PROGRAM. ONLY PROBLEMS HE MENTIONED CONCERNED A "FRAMER" OF INCORRECT SIZE AND DIFFICULTY LOCATING SPLICING TAPE AND CLEANING CHEMICALS.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW ABOVE, IT UNCLEAR HOW DIRECT SDC PROCUREMENT WOULD HAVE ALLEVIATED AIRCRAFT PROBLEMS. BELL SUPPLIED INCORRECT PISTON IN NOVEMBER, BUT CAN HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR PROBLEM SINCE SDC MECHANIC REQUESTED INCORRECT TYPE. NOR IS THERE ANY REASON TO EXPECT THAT ROCKWELL WOULD HAVE SUPPLIED OIL SEAL TO SDC ANY QUICKER, AS IT FAILED TO SEND ITEM TO BELL DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS. IN ADDITION, BELL HAS EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS NEEDED TO EXPEDITE SHIPMENTS AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 15837 170048Z

7. TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF PROBLEM, AVIATION MAINTENANCE ADVISOR WILL INSTRUCT BELL IN MEXICO CITY TO (A) TAKE PROMPT INVENTORY OF ALL PARTS REQUESTED FROM ROCKWELL FOR XC-GOZ, (B) REQUEST STATUS REPORT FROM ROCKWELL ON MISSING ITEMS; AND (C) INITIATE PROCUREMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES OF ANY ITEMS WHICH ROCKWELL CANNOT SUPPLY PROMPTLY. ALL PARTS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO CULIACAN FOR STORAGE, MAKING THEM IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO SDC MECHANIC.

8. REMARKS OF SDC PROJECT SUPERVISOR SUGGEST THAT ANY MISSING PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FALL WITHIN CONTRACT PROVISION PERMITTING SDC TO PROCURE DIRECTLY.

9. IF SDC AND USG AGREE TO "PROGRAM COORDINATOR" SUGGESTED IN ITEM FIVE OF SDC TELEX, WE AND SDC PROJECT MANAGER AT CULIACAN SUGGEST THAT COORDINATOR BE ASSIGNED TO MEXICO CITY (WHERE HE COULD BIRD-DOG PROCUREMENT AND SHIPMENT) INSTEAD OF CULIACAN.

THOMPSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO15837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0926
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabcmr.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 15814, 76 MEXICO 15815
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SDC/MOPSS CONTRACT
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006